

Amendment to the claims

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in this application:

Listing of claims

1. (Original) A process for activating an hydrotreating catalyst comprising a Group VIB metal oxide and a Group VIII metal oxide which process comprises contacting the catalyst with an acid and an organic additive which has a boiling point in the range of 80-500°C and a solubility in water of at least 5 grams per liter (20°C, atmospheric pressure), optionally followed by drying under such conditions that at least 50 wt % of the additive is maintained in the catalyst.
2. (Original) The process according to claim 1, wherein the activated hydrotreating catalyst comprises a crystalline fraction (expressed as weight fraction of crystalline compounds of Group VIB and Group VIII metals relative to the total weight of the catalyst) below 5 wt %.
3. (Original) The process according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the activated hydrotreating catalyst comprises substantially no crystalline fraction.
4. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~claim 1 to 3~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrotreating catalyst is a used hydrotreating catalyst which has been regenerated.
5. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~claim 1 to 3~~ claim 1 or 2, wherein the hydrotreating catalyst is a fresh hydrotreating catalyst.
6. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 5, wherein the fresh hydrotreating catalyst has been calcined.
7. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 5 ~~or 6~~, wherein the fresh hydrotreating catalyst comprises a crystalline fraction of at least 0.5 wt %.
8. (Currently amended) The process of claims 1 ~~to 7~~, wherein the catalyst composition containing the acid is subjected to an aging step while wet.

9. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 8, wherein the catalyst composition is aged for a time sufficient to reduce the crystalline fraction below 5 wt %.
10. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 1 to 9, wherein the acid concentration is at least 5 wt %, ~~preferably at least 7 wt %, most preferably at least 10 wt %~~ (relative to the total weight of the catalyst).
11. (Currently amended) The process according to any one ~~of the preceding~~ claims 1, 2, 8, or 9 wherein the acid is an inorganic acid, ~~preferably a phosphorus-containing inorganic acid~~.
12. (Currently amended) The process according to any one ~~of the preceding~~ claims 1, 2, 8, or 9 wherein the acid is a carboxylic acid comprising at least one carboxyl group and 1-20 carbon atoms.
13. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 12 wherein the acid is citric acid.
14. (Currently amended) The process according to ~~of the preceding~~ claims 1, 2, 8, or 9 wherein the additive is an organic oxygen- or nitrogen-containing compound, with a boiling point in the range of 100-400°C and a solubility in water of at least 5 grams per liter at room temperature (20°C) (atmospheric pressure).
15. (Currently amended) The process according to claim 14 wherein the additive is selected from the group of compounds comprising at least two hydroxyl groups and 2-10 carbon atoms per molecule, and the (poly)ethers of these compounds.
16. (Withdrawn from Consideration) The hydrotreating catalyst obtainable by the process according to claims 1 to 15.
17. (Withdrawn from Consideration) A hydrotreating catalyst comprising a Group VIII metal oxide and a Group VI metal oxide, which catalyst additionally comprises an acid and an organic additive which has a boiling point in the range of 80-500°C and a solubility in water of at least 5 grams per liter (20°C, atmospheric pressure).

18. (Withdrawn from Consideration) The hydrotreating catalyst according to claim 16, wherein the catalyst is a regenerated used catalyst or a calcined fresh catalyst and wherein the catalyst comprises a crystalline fraction below 5 wt% (expressed as weight fraction of crystalline compounds of Group VIB and Group VIII metals relative to the total weight of the catalyst).

19. (Withdrawn from Consideration) A process for hydrotreating a hydrocarbon feed in which a hydrocarbon feed is contacted under hydrotreating conditions with a catalyst according to claim 10, which optionally has been (pre)sulfided before it is contacted with the hydrocarbon feed.